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NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 12-18-79 REVIEWER: 372044

NSC BRIEFING

11 February 1959

**21ST PARTY CONGRESS**

- I. First "special" party congress in Soviet history ended on 5 February.  
(You will recall that I briefed on Khrushchev's six-hour opening speech at our last meeting.)
  - A. Party Congresses are supposed to meet every four years. Last congress was only three years ago, however--February 1956 when Khrushchev delivered his famous secret speech denouncing Stalin.
- II. Chief purpose of this most recent nine-day show was to launch the new Seven-Year Plan on a wave of self-confidence and give it maximum propaganda support.
  - A. It was also intended to serve as a testimonial to wisdom and dynamism of Khrushchev's leadership.
  - B. A new reminder of penalties and futility of opposition.  
Saburov and Pervukhin made confessions and were linked publicly with anti-party group for the first time.
  - C. Finally, it served as forum for reviewing foreign policy.
- III. Congress ended with adoption of a resolution approving Seven-Year Plan directives.
  - A. Khrushchev opened and closed the congress with lengthy speeches.
  - B. In between, speakers came to rostrum to add dutiful comments to Khrushchev's keynote oratory.
  - C. Taking Khrushchev's address as their text, they devoted themselves to discussions of affairs in their respective spheres and pledges of dedicated support to Soviet party's objectives.
  - D. For the most part it was a pretty dull affair - a dismal procession of stereotyped speeches for 8½ days.

IV. There are several interesting points which should be noted, however.

- A. The cocky and tough tone taken by the major speakers raises the possibility that Moscow is prepared to incur greater risks in pursuit of foreign policy objectives.
  - 1. Foreign policy pronouncements reflected Soviet leaders' high confidence and determination in pressing major test of strength upon West on the Berlin and German questions.
  - 2. Khrushchev's speeches bursting with confidence about increasing strength of Bloc as compared to Free World. Predicted fulfillment of Seven-Year Plan will give socialist camp a "decisive preponderance in relationship of forces in international arena."
- B. In contrast to the 20th Congress line of playing down the importance of the free world communist parties, Khrushchev now is talking about increased support and a more militant policy for these parties.
  - 1. His bold criticism of Nasir's moves against local communists is a step in this direction.
- C. Khrushchev also reversed the 20th Party Congress overtures to Socialist leaders and now calls on rank and file Socialists to forsake their leaders and cooperate with the Communists.
- D. Khrushchev's analysis that national liberation struggle has entered "new stage" in Latin America and Africa probably indicates that Soviet activities in these areas will be increased.

V. Finally, the party congress provides ample evidence of how closely the free world communist parties parrot the Moscow line. Some 60 foreign delegations at Congress; about 50 spoke. Here are some examples of what they said:

A. Severo Aguirre, head of the Cuban delegation:

"Comrades, it would be hard to explain to you the revolutionary enthusiasm that has taken hold of the masses of the Cuban people who have risen in defense of their homeland and cast aside the yoke of political domination by foreign imperialism....As in Venezuela, events in Cuba have disproved the statements of persons who claimed that the nearness of the United States makes it impossible to successfully wage the battle of the Latin American nations... Little Cuba has defeated one of the biggest imperialist powers."

B. Khalid Bakdash, secretary general of the Syrian Communist Party:

"Khrushchev's words wind their way to the heart of every sincere Arab patriot in the UAR and the rest of the Arab countries, because they are the words of a farsighted, sincere friend, and because they ably portray the realities of the Arab world today."

C. James Jackson, secretary of the U.S. Communist Party:

"The challenge of the CPSU to the fraternal communists everywhere is to work harder for the preservation and strengthening of peace. The U.S. Communist Party will find great inspiration and powerful moral support in this challenge. Be assured, comrades, that we shall not spare ourselves in the struggle to prevent imperialist adventurers or a handful of monopolists, the merchants of death, from pushing our country into a war, the outcome of which could only result in our national oblivion."

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COMPARISON OF IRAQI CABINETS

<u>POST</u>	<u>OLD</u>	<u>NEW</u>
Prime Minister	Maj. Gen. Qasim	No Change
Defense	Qasim	No Change
Foreign Affairs	Jumard (anti-Communist)	Hashim Jawad (extreme Leftist NDP)
Interior	Brig. Yahya (weak anti-Communist)	No Change
Finance	Hadid (extreme left)	No Change
	(National Democratic Party)	No Change
Justice	Mustafa Ali (apolitical)	No Change
Economy	Ibrahim Kubba (extreme left)	No Change
Agriculture	Mahmud Hedayb (extreme left)	Rashid Mahmud
Health	Salih Mahmud	Maj. Gen. Shavaf (possible Communist)
Public Works	Baba Ali (anti-Communist)	Talibani (extreme Left NDP)
Social Affairs	Brig. Talib (anti-Communist)	Brig. Amin (Iraqi nationalist)
		(anti-Communist)
Development	Hadid (extreme left)	Shaybani (extreme left NDP)
Education	Hedayb	Brig. Hamid (Iraqi nationalist)
Communications	Shanshal (anti-Communist)	Jamil (extreme left NDP)
Broadcasting	None	Haj Ahmad (leftist--Reported Communist informant)
Minister of State	Rikabi (Baath--anti-Communist)	Fuad Arif (leftist NDP)

DOCUMENT NO. 5  
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
 X DECLASSIFIED  
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
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 DATE 12-25-77 REVIEWER: 372044

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